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***Ptilophora plumigera* D.&S. (Lep.: Notodontidae) in the London area**

In *Ent. Rec.* **108**: 72 Ian Furguson records the capture of a male of this species at Shoreham, Kent on 11.xi.1995 confirming the continued presence of the species in the London area and invalidating the suggestion by Colin Plant (*Larger Moths of the London Area*, 1993) that *P. plumigera* may now be extinct in the area. However, both Plant and Furguson, in stating that the last previous record for the species was in 1955, were evidently unaware of the specimen observed by Paul Sokoloff in this locality on 7.xi.1973, reported in Chalmers-Hunt's supplement to his *Butterflies and Moths of Kent* in *Ent. Rec.* **92**. To this I must add that the species was not uncommon there in 1966; five specimens came to a single m.v. light on 8 November located in tetrad TQ56F, the tetrad to the south of that where the moth has frequently been observed in the past.

Although part of this habitat has changed by the spread of scrub on the open downland, the decline in insects has been phenomenal. I believe the cause, and the continuing threat to *P. plumigera* and other species remains with the destruction of surrounding downland, the abandonment of pasture and fodder crops such as clovers, vetches, lucerne and sainfoin which abounded in the neighbourhood fifty years ago in favour of subsidised arable farming, especially of cereals and rape with attendant toxic chemical spraying.— B.K. WEST, 36 Briar Road, Dartford, Kent DA5 2HN.